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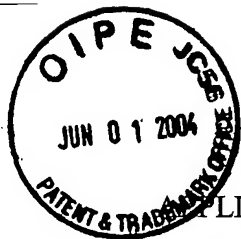
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| <b>TRANSMITTAL FORM</b><br><i>(to be used for all correspondence during pendency of filed application)</i> |  | U.S. Department of Commerce<br>Patent and Trademark Office | Application Number     | 10/782,267        |
|  |  |  | Filing Date            | February 18, 2004 |
|  |  |  | First Named Inventor   | Steven W. Meeks   |
|  |  |  | Group Art Unit Number  | 2877              |
|  |  |  | Examiner Name          | Not Yet Known     |
| Total Number of Pages in This Submission   |  | 8*   | Attorney Docket Number | 20830-08855       |

| ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)  |   |
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REMARKS: \* No. of pages does not include pages of cited references

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|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| Signature:                     |                                 |                    |
| Attorney/Reg. No.:             | John T. McNelis/Reg. No. 37,186 | Dated: 25 May 2004 |

| CERTIFICATE OF MAILING  |                 |                    |
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Steven W. Meeks and Rusmin Kudinar  
APPLICATION NO.: 10/782,267  
FILING DATE: February 18, 2004  
TITLE: System for Simultaneously Measuring Thin Film Layer Thickness, Reflectivity, Roughness, Surface Profile and Magnetic Pattern  
EXAMINER: Not Yet Known  
GROUP ART UNIT: 2877  
ATTY. DKT. NO.: 20830-08855

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

**Under 37 CFR §§ 1.56 and 1.97-98**

SIR:

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR §§ 1.56 and 1.97-98, enclosed herewith is modified form PTO/SB/08A listing references for consideration by the Examiner. Enclosed is a copy of each listed non-patent reference that may be material to the examination of this application, and for which there may be a duty to disclose.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation regarding the completeness of the list of references, or that inclusion of a reference in this list is an admission that it is prior art or is pertinent to this application, or that a search has been made, or as an admission that the information listed is, or may be considered to be, material to patentability, or that no other material information exists, and shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed:

- ☒ within three months of the filing date of the application, or date of entry into the national stage of an international application, or before the mailing date of a first office action on the merits, whichever event last occurred;

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- ☐ before the mailing of a first official action after the filing of a request for continued examination (RCE) under 37 CFR § 1.114;
- ☐ after three months of the filing date of this national application or the date of entry of the national stage in an international application, or after the mailing date of the first official action on the merits, whichever event last occurred, but before the mailing date of the first to occur of either: (1) a final action under 37 CFR § 1.113; or (2) an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and:
  - ☐ attached hereto is the fee set forth under 37 CFR § 1.17(p) for submission of this Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR § 1.97(c); OR
  - ☐ Applicant certifies pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.97(e) that:
    - ☐ each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Statement; OR
    - ☐ no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the person signing this certification after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this Statement was known to any individual designated under 37 CFR § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Statement;
- ☐ on or before the payment of the issue fee but after the mailing date of the first to occur of either: (1) a final action under 37 CFR § 1.113; (2) a notice of allowance under 37 CFR § 1.311; or (3) an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and:
  - ☐ Applicant certifies pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.97(e) that:
    - ☐ each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Statement; or
    - ☐ no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a

foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the person signing this certification after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this Statement was known to any individual designated under 37 CFR § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Statement; AND

- ☐ attached hereto is the fee set forth under 37 CFR §1.17(p) for submission of this Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR. § 1.97(c); OR
- ☐ after the payment of the issue fee. Applicant requests that the information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement be placed in the file according to 37 CFR § 1.97(i), although the information may not be considered by the USPTO.
- ☐ This application relies, under 35 U.S.C. § 120, on the earlier filing date of prior application No. APPLICATION NO., filed on DATE FILED, and the references cited therein are hereby referenced, but are not required to be provided in this application under 37 CFR § 1.98(d).
- ☐ Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and the communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 CFR § 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR § 1.704(d).
- ☒ Applicant submits that no fee is required for the consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement.

Consideration of the listed references and favorable action are solicited.

Respectfully submitted,  
STEVEN W. MEEKS AND RUSMIN KUDINAR

Dated: 25 May 2001

By: 

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| <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE<br/>STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> |   |    |   | Application No.          | 10/782,267        |
|  |   |    |   | Filing Date              | February 18, 2004 |
|  |   |    |   | First Named Inventor     | Steven W. Meeks   |
|  |   |    |   | Art Unit                 | 2877              |
|  |   |    |   | Examiner Name            | Not Yet Known     |
| Sheet  | 1 | of | 4 | Attorney Docket Number   | 20830-08855       |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS |                       |  |                    |  |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|--|--------------------|--|
| Examiner Initials*    | Cite No. <sup>1</sup> | Document No.<br>Number – Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known) | Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or<br>Applicant of Cited Document |
|                       | A1                    | 3,885,875  | 05/27/1975         | Rosenfeld <i>et al.</i>                            |
|                       | A2                    | 4,332,477  | 06/01/1982         | Sato   |
|                       | A3                    | 4,585,348  | 04/29/1986         | Chastang <i>et al.</i>                             |
|                       | A4                    | 4,668,860  | 05/26/1987         | Anthon   |
|                       | A5                    | 4,870,631  | 09/26/1989         | Stoddard   |
|                       | A6                    | 4,873,430  | 10/10/1989         | Juliana <i>et al.</i>                              |
|                       | A7                    | 5,017,012  | 05/21/1991         | Merritt, Jr. <i>et al.</i>                         |
|                       | A8                    | 5,129,724  | 07/14/1992         | Brophy <i>et al.</i>                               |
|                       | A9                    | 5,189,481  | 02/23/1993         | Jann <i>et al.</i>                                 |
|                       | A10                   | 5,196,906  | 03/23/1993         | Stover <i>et al.</i>                               |
|                       | A11                   | 5,270,794  | 12/14/1993         | Tsuji <i>et al.</i>                                |
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|                       | A16                   | 5,446,549  | 08/29/1995         | Mazumder <i>et al.</i>                             |
|                       | A17                   | 5,463,897  | 11/07/1995         | Prater <i>et al.</i>                               |
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|                       | A21                   | 5,644,562  | 07/01/1997         | de Groot   |
|                       | A22                   | 5,694,214  | 12/02/1997         | Watanabe <i>et al.</i>                             |
|                       | A23                   | 5,726,455  | 03/10/1998         | Vurens   |
|                       | A24                   | 5,748,305  | 05/05/1998         | Shimono <i>et al.</i>                              |
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|                       | A27                   | 5,864,394  | 01/26/1999         | Jordan, III <i>et al.</i>                          |
|                       | A28                   | 5,875,029  | 02/23/1999         | Jann <i>et al.</i>                                 |
|                       | A29                   | 5,880,838  | 03/09/1999         | Marx <i>et al.</i>                                 |
|                       | A30                   | 5,903,342  | 05/11/1999         | Yatsugake <i>et al.</i>                            |

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| Examiner Signature |  | Date Considered |  |
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| Substitute for form 1449A/PTO<br><br><b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE<br/>STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> |   |    |   | <b>Complete if Known</b> |                   |
|   |   |    |   | Application No.          | 10/782,267        |
|   |   |    |   | Filing Date              | February 18, 2004 |
|   |   |    |   | First Named Inventor     | Steven W. Meeks   |
|   |   |    |   | Art Unit                 | 2877              |
|   |   |    |   | Examiner Name            | Not Yet Known     |
| Sheet   | 2 | of | 4 | Attorney Docket Number   | 20830-08855       |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS |                       |  |                    |  |
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| Examiner Initials*    | Cite No. <sup>1</sup> | Document No.<br>Number – Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known) | Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or<br>Applicant of Cited Document |
|                       | A31                   | 5,951,891  | 09/14/1999         | Barenboim <i>et al.</i>                            |
|                       | A32                   | 5,978,091  | 11/02/1999         | Jann <i>et al.</i>                                 |
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|                       | A40                   | 6,107,637  | 08/22/2000         | Watanabe <i>et al.</i>                             |
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|                       | A47                   | 6,248,988  | 06/19/2001         | Krantz   |
|                       | A48                   | 6,271,916B1  | 08/07/2001         | Marxer <i>et al.</i>                               |
|                       | A49                   | 6,307,627  | 10/23/2001         | Vurens   |
|                       | A50                   | 6,353,222B1  | 03/05/2002         | Dotan  |
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|                       | A52                   | 6,509,966B2  | 01/21/2003         | Ishiguro <i>et al.</i>                             |
|                       | A53                   | 6,542,248B1  | 04/01/2003         | Schwarz  |
|                       | A54                   | 6,603,542  | 08/20/2003         | Chase <i>et al.</i>                                |
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|  |   |    |   | Examiner Name            | Not Yet Known     |
| Sheet  | 3 | of | 4 | Attorney Docket Number   | 20830-08855       |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS    |                       |   |                                |  |                |
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| Examiner Initials*       | Cite No. <sup>1</sup> | Document No.<br>Number – Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)  | Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY             | Name of Patentee or<br>Applicant of Cited Document |                |
| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS |                       |   |                                |  |                |
| Examiner Initials*       | Cite No. <sup>1</sup> | Foreign Patent Document<br>Country Code <sup>3</sup> – Number <sup>4</sup><br>Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known) | Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or<br>Applicant of Cited Document | T <sup>6</sup> |
|                          | B1                    | WO 98/52019   | 11/19/1998                     | Technische Universiteit Delft                      |                |
|                          | B2                    | JP 3-221804   | 09/30/1991                     | NEC Corp   |                |

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| Sheet  | 4 | of | 4 | Attorney Docket Number   | 20830-08855       |

| OTHER REFERENCES – NON-PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS |                       |   |  |                |
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| Examiner Initials*                                 | Cite No. <sup>1</sup> | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published                  |  | T <sup>6</sup> |
|  | C1                    | W.C. Leung, W. Crooks, H. Rosen and T. Strand, <i>An Optical Method Using a Laser and an Integrating Sphere Combination for Characterizing the Thickness Profile of Magnetic Media</i> , Sept. 1989, IEEE Transaction on Magnetics, Vol. 25, No. 5. Pages 3659-3661.            |  |                |
|  | C2                    | Steven W. Meeks, Walter E. Weresin, and Hal J. Rosen, <i>Optical Surface Analysis of the Head-Disk-Interface of Thin Film Disks</i> , January 1995, Transactions of the ASME, Journal of Tribology, Vol. 117, pages 112-118.  |  |                |
|  | C3                    | Steven Meeks, Maxtor and Rusmin Kudinar, <i>The Next Battleground: Head-Disk Interface</i> , March 1998, Data Storage, Test & Measurement, pages 29-30, 34 and 38.  |  |                |
|  | C4                    | <i>Laser Scanning Surface Profilometer</i> , [online], August 1970, [retrieved January 29, 2001], Pages 789-790, Retrieved from the Internet: <URL: <a href="http://www.delphion.com/tdbs/tdb?&amp;order=7OC101758">http://www.delphion.com/tdbs/tdb?&amp;order=7OC101758</a> . |  |                |
|  | C5                    | Meeks, Steven W.: "A Combined Ellipsometer, Reflectometer, Scatterometer and Kerr Effect Microscope for Thin Film Disk Characterization," Machine Vision Applications in Industrial Inspection VIII, Proceedings of SPIE, vol. 3966, 2000, pages 385-391, XP001085220.          |  |                |

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20830/08855/DOCS/1437590.1